

many Americans feel that there is a moral crisis in our Nation.

Today is the National Day of Prayer, a time when all Americans can come together and reflect on our Creator and the blessings He has bestowed on this Nation. I think it is altogether fitting and appropriate that we continue the traditions of Abraham Lincoln and join together in this National Day of Prayer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight apologized to his Republican colleagues for the uproar over his release of the Hubbell tapes.

The gentleman from Indiana also announced the removal of his chief investigator. However, it is not enough for the gentleman from Indiana to fire his chief staff person. He should have removed himself from any further role in this investigation. The staff person did not release the tapes; the gentleman from Indiana did. The staff person did not change and edit the tapes, the gentleman from Indiana did.

The gentleman from Indiana claims immunity from prosecution because he is a Congressman. If an ordinary person had released or changed the tapes, it would be a crime, obstruction of justice, and they would go to jail. The gentleman from Indiana uses his position as a Congressman to assert immunity, claiming, in effect, that he is above the law.

At a minimum, the gentleman from Indiana should be removed from any further role in this investigation. He clearly cannot operate as chairman in a fair manner. Neither he nor any other Member of this House is above the law.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Americans will celebrate Mother's Day and pay tribute to mothers all across our Nation for the care, love, and strength that they provide for their families and children.

How distressing it is that this day should fall on the same date that hard-working Americans celebrate another day, Tax Freedom Day, the day we finally quit working to pay the burden of government and start working for the benefit of our own families.

National Tax Freedom Day is, in fact, May 10 this year, the latest date it has ever been. Every year, Tax Freedom Day moves later and later. Soon we are going to be celebrating Tax

Freedom Day on Father's Day at the rate we are going.

Most Americans want us to move Tax Freedom Day back to the tax payment day, which is April 15, as we well know. Those two dates have not coincided for over 30 years.

Despite last year's tax relief provided by this Republican-led Congress, the average family still pays 38 percent of their income to taxes, and that is way too high, as we all know. So let us make last year's tax cut the first step, but not the last step, toward giving Americans control over their own incomes, and commit to stopping the Tax Freedom Day creep.

Meanwhile, happy Mother's Day.

MODIFIED ASSAULT WEAPONS

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I am releasing a bipartisan letter to the President in support of his recent ban on the import of modified assault weapons and pledging to oppose any legislative efforts to overturn it. This is a commonsense, moderate approach to fighting gun-related crime.

I fully support the rights of hunters, but these modified assault weapons are not for sport or hunting. They are manufactured for killing people. They are used on our streets for committing crimes. These firearms put our children and the public at great risk.

James Guelff, the brother of my constituent Lee Guelff, was killed by an assault weapon while serving on the San Francisco Police Department. These modified weapons are really just assault weapons that have been cosmetically altered when they are imported. The result is violence in our communities, on our streets. We must not allow the ban on assault weapons to be overturned.

PROHIBIT TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CHINA'S MISSILE PROGRAM

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, has the White House gone fishing, or are they just somewhere out there, lost in space?

I know I should not be surprised, but quite frankly, I am shocked that the Clinton administration is giving classified American missile technology to China. While this administration publicly pats itself on the back for nurturing relations with China, China is spreading this missile technology around the world, including rogue and terrorist nations.

The space cadets in this administration are trying so hard to push a bad policy that they just approved the transfer of classified missile technology to China's Great Wall Industries.

In case you did not know, Great Wall Industries supplies and builds components for China's nuclear missiles. Americans are asking: Is this administration trying to inhale in the vacuum of space, or is this just plain ignorance on their part?

It is time we sent a clear message to these space balls that Congress will not reward bad behavior or bad policy. It is time for us to prohibit the transfer of nuclear technology that can be used to enhance China's missile program.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today is the National Day of Prayer. There will be prayer in hospitals, prisons, State legislatures, the House of Representatives, United States Senate, the White House, and even prayer to open the Supreme Court, but there will be no prayer in our schools.

Think about it. A Supreme Court that opens each session with "God, save the United States and this honorable court" on one hand forbids prayer in our schools on the other hand. This is a Supreme Court that must be challenged by the Congress of these United States.

A school without prayer is a school without God. Members know it. I know it. The American people know it. Deep down, even the Supreme Court knows it. We do not just need a National Day of Prayer for political purposes. We should overrule the Supreme Court and pass a law to allow prayer in our schools. In America, the people govern, not the courts.

MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF

(Mr. HOSTETTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, the Declaration of Independence asserts that "all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness."

Governments are then instituted to preserve these rights for mankind. But today, our American Government is in grave violation of that principle to treat each man and woman equally. Married men and women bow under a heavier tax burden than singles, a tax burden on average as great as \$1,400.

Why does your Nation's tax law discriminate against those who participate in the institution of marriage and even discourage their participation through an annual charge of \$1,400?

The Tax Foundation has reported that 60 tax provisions handle married couples differently than singles. A married couple's income is taxed under the higher 28 percent bracket at a lower

point than a single's income. Married couples receive a lower standard deduction than two singles. Even tax provisions regarding Social Security, capital gains, and the Earned Income Tax Credit are subject to this disparity.

This unfair treatment, inconsistent with the principles on which this Nation was founded and on which we base our congressional service, must stop. I ask my colleagues to join in marriage penalty relief.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, when it seemed they had no promises left unbroken, the Gingrich Republicans have apparently decided to break yet another promise on cleaning up this Congress.

As over 200 Members of this House stood strong outside this door signing a petition, demanding that campaign finance reform be debated here on the floor of the Congress in a fair and bipartisan manner, Speaker GINGRICH grew desperate, and he came forward and said, if you will not have that kind of reform, we will vote on campaign finance reform no later than May 15.

On my calendar, that is next week. Yet, word is circulating that the Gingrich Republican leadership, which has done practically nothing in this entire Congress on anything, has decided to do absolutely nothing on campaign reform in the entire month of May.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the matter of cleaning up corruption, they know that each day of delay will assure the death of real reform.

HUBBELL TAPES SHOW EVIDENCE OF CRIMES

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, while the other side is becoming increasingly hysterical every time evidence is unearthed, I would ask my Democratic friends a few questions. What do you suppose Webster Hubbell meant when he said on tape, so I need to roll over one more time?

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Again, for the benefit of those on the other side who may be too busy attacking and smearing everyone whose job it is to uncover the truth, I ask them, what do they think convicted felon Webster Hubbell meant when he said, "So I need to roll over one more time." Or, "I will not raise those allegations that might open it up to Hillary." What about Mrs. Hubbell's statements about overbilling that, "That would be one area Hillary would be vulnerable." Is this not evidence of crime? Is this not relevant to the investigation now ongoing?

Can we not agree that our citizens deserve the truth and that no citizen is above the law?

BURTON COMMITTEE HAS BECOME PAPARAZZI OF AMERICAN POLITICS

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman would not be impressed. "The buck stops here" has now been amended by Republicans in Congress to say, "The buck stops with staff; don't blame me."

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) has released private conversations between husband and wife. He released edited tapes that misrepresented those conversations. He has said he is "out to get President Clinton."

When the gentleman is supposed to be leading an impartial investigation, when public outrage forced action, what did Republicans do? They fired a staff person. Harry Truman would not buy that and neither will the American people.

Republicans have changed the principle of innocent until proven guilty to guilty before the facts are heard. Republicans have changed the principle of limited government to the injustice of government, forcing mothers to testify against their daughters and the injustice of intruding into marital conversations.

The Burton committee has become the paparazzi of American politics, and that is a sad day for our country.

SOME WANT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM SCANDAL IN WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, let me see if I have got this straight. The same White House that hired private investigators to look into the private lives of Judge Starr and his deputies now is offended that the privacy rights of his victim friend, Web Hubbell, has been violated.

The same White House that releases documents, subpoenaed documents, no less, one drip at a time, now is complaining that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is not being forthcoming in release of documents.

The same White House which collected 900 FBI files, just all happened to be Republicans, is a defender now of privacy rights.

The same Democrats who took the criminal intercept of a private conversation on a cellular phone last year and then released it to the press is now upset that the perfectly legal and routinely taped conversation of a convicted prisoner has been exposed for all the world to see.

Maybe all these people simply wish to divert attention from the greatest scandal of them all: the one in the White House.

BURTON INVESTIGATION IS AN EMBARRASSMENT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Burton investigation is an embarrassment. I know; I am a member of the committee.

Yesterday, the Republican leadership apologized to the Republican Members of this House. They should apologize to the American people. Millions of taxpayer dollars are being wasted on a partisan, unprofessional, indeed, inept investigation.

White House personnel like Marsha Scott and Maggie Williams have been deposed for days and forced to incur thousands of dollars in legal fees to answer questions asked by other investigators. Apologize to them.

The Federal budget, a patient's bill of rights, improved education, more support for child care, all are being neglected while Republican staffers listen to taped conversations between Webster Hubbell and his wife and pour over Democratic documents. For all that, apologize to the American people.

Let us get on with the business of American families. Replace the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DAN BURTON) not just his staff.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES D. STRAUSS

(Mr. REDMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of America's living treasures, Dr. James D. Strauss of Lincoln Christian Seminary.

Dr. Strauss has committed his life to the training of Christian ministers who today circle the globe in their service to people of many ethnic and racial groups.

Dr. Strauss is no ordinary professor. For 40 years his sharp mind has ignited sleeping minds. His commitment has influenced great accomplishments in others. His servant's heart has moved others to service. His profound grasp of reality has inspired others in such a way that they understand their place in the universe.

Today, the honor of professor emeritus will be conferred upon Dr. James D. Strauss, an honor that in his humility, he would deny that he has earned. Yet his vigor and quest for his service to God will no doubt give new meaning to the word "emeritus."

Dr. Strauss, your servants have seen and bear witness that you have presented your life as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before our Creator.